



“We have heard the voice of our neighbour who is everywhere, we heard the voice of the poor who are the members of Jesus Christ and who are our brothers, they are all equally dear to us in whatever country they are.”¹

Rome, October 2016

Dear Friends,

Before leaving Italy for good, I wish to come to you once again ... I wish I could write to you in my own language to be able to express all that fills my heart. It is in one's heart that everything becomes meaningful. In one's heart the question: “where is your brother?”², challenges our relationships transforming them in practical and effective, opening new horizons before us and widening our tents so that more people may be welcomed.

In my homeland, Argentina, we say that to thank is to let one's heart speak, because we share the work of love among people and in relationship with God and with others.

First of all I wish to thank God. I have experienced His tenderness and trust from the very first moment I received the mission entrusted to me by the General Council of the Sisters of Charity, in the person of the General Superior, Sr. Nunzia De Gori. I carried out this mission with the collaboration of three Sisters and one lay person.

Together we laid the foundations of the Thouret's Foundation, which aims to support social projects for the development of people's life in the four continents where the charism of the Sisters of Charity proclaims the Gospel of Charity.

Thanks to this “adventure of solidarity” I had the opportunity to build relationships, to have encounters, and to participate in dialogues, which strengthened our belief that only true love enables us to give without expecting any reward, and to get involved beyond what is convenient, as the Good Samaritan did.³

I wish to thank each one of the members of the Management Board, which I do not mention openly, to respect their wish, but to whom I owe a lot. Without them, their patience, trust, support and competence the Thouret's Foundation would not exist now.

Thanks to the whole Community of the Sisters of Charity, who have followed the birth of this Foundation not only with their prayer but also with various initiatives, promoting solidarity and responding to the needs of the projects of our Congregation.

Thanks also to all the Sisters who, through translations and the correction of our texts have improved the presentation of our activities and have facilitated the meetings of formation, and the various advertising campaigns.

Thanks to all our dear Sisters, now retired in homes for elderly; thanks for their witness, and their commitment in producing handicrafts and organizing fundraising events. They have shown us true passion and love for the mission of the Sisters of Charity and for the poor.

Thanks to the Friends of Saint Jeanne Antide. Together with them solidarity events were organized to support our mission in countries where war is still a daily companion.

Thanks to all the communities involved in education, for all their awareness programmes among pupils, teachers, and parents. It is encouraging to hear their voice through the phone asking: “What projects are in need of support”? This shows that our capacity to plan has grown and we are able to live a creative and affective⁴ charity

¹ SJAT, Circ. 28-12-1812

² Gen. 4:9

³ Lk. 10:25-37

⁴ Conference to the Daughters of Charity - St. Vincent de Paul



towards any of the initiatives which have contributed and will contribute to build a wider network of love, so that our hands and hearts may reach out beyond our geographical borders.”

Thanks to the initiatives of “Drops of Solidarity”, and all those who supported them from the beginning. Trying to live the “God Alone” of Jeanne Antide we have deepened our involvement in favour of the poor, promoting their dignity and their evangelization. These first initiatives have become a legacy to be continued in our commitment to live charity among the people and the Church of today, as the Mission of the Foundation states.

Thanks to the Promoter Group of the Youth and Vocation Ministry in Italy and Malta, for the dream come true of establishing a Missionary Volunteers’ service, called “Step Overseas”. Today we can say that small groups of young people are part of this experience in various missions.

Thanks to all those who offered specific competences: the communication office, always ready to make visible the Mission of the Sisters of Charity and of the Foundation. Thanks to their work we now have a web-site and we are on face-book. They also provide the advertising material for our campaigns, with great patience, passion and competence .

Thanks to the members of the Financial Office, always ready to prepare projects, fill up forms, fundraise, prepare estimate and final budgets.

Thanks to our secretary, Mrs. Maria Grazia, for her patience and the quality of her work, who helped us in setting up the secretariat, with the archive, the list of contacts, and all that is needed to assure that the Foundation may work smoothly and efficiently to Promote the Development of our Global Community.

Thanks to each person I met, at the Diocesan Missionary offices, missionary groups and parish groups, and through other Associations and Foundations which helped us and still grant us financial support to our projects. Together with them we have built a network of fraternal relationships, with dreams and hopes for those who live in situations of poverty, war and violence!

In our journey we tried to live the invitation of Pope Francis to go towards the peripheries⁵, humbly yet generously and with love we have tried to build a “culture of the encounter⁶” in which anyone may experience God.

Dear all, three years have gone by since the beginning of our Foundation. Our aim was to lay the foundations to promote solidarity, complying with all the juridical requirements. We did it successfully. Now we need to keep building with passion, hope and joyfully ...

I have opened my heart to you. I carry each one of you in it. Let us be close to one another while being there where God wants us. Strengthened by our prayer let us continue to look at our neighbour as a brother or a sister we wish to welcome and to care for.

May our love for God and for the poor unite all of us in one Project, the unique Project of God our Father, I am sure that with Him we will certainly be in communion. Love to all.

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⁵Cf. Pope Francis Pentecost Vigil - 2013

⁶ Cf. Pope Francis Holy Mass –Saint Martha 22 May 2013